

EXTERNAL TRADE OF QUEENSLAND.Three Months Ended 31st March, 1957.

During the three months ended 31st March, 1957, exports from Queensland were worth £73,126,873, of which £50,106,247 was to overseas destinations and £23,020,626 to other Australian States and Territories. Imports were valued at £53,045,386, of which £10,686,670 came from overseas and £42,358,716 from other States and Territories.

The quarter thus ended with a favourable balance of £20m. of exports in excess of imports, which was a marked improvement on the position in the corresponding quarter of 1956, when imports exceeded exports by £5½m. Exports were over £30m. greater than in the March quarter of 1956, overseas exports of £50m. being twice as great in value as in the earlier quarter, while interstate exports increased from £17m. to £23m. Among overseas exports the outstanding rise was in wool which increased from nearly £10m. to nearly £26m. Other commodities showing high values sent overseas were - sugar (£7.5m.), copper (£0.9m.), lead (£1.6m.), titanium and zirconium ores, &c. (£2.0m.), and other metals, ores, &c. (£0.9m.). The increase of £6m. in interstate exports was largely contributed to by sugar exports of £5.3m., an increase of £2.8m. over the figure for March quarter, 1956, while butter (£2.0m.) and many other items showed high figures. Imports from overseas were lower than in the March quarter of 1956 in nearly all important items, while the increase in interstate imports was most marked in petroleum and shale oils.

Details of overseas and interstate exports and imports during the three months ended 31st March, 1957, in comparison with the corresponding three months of 1956, are given in the tables appended hereto.

Nine Months Ended 31st March, 1957.

External trade of Queensland during the first three quarters of the financial year 1956-57 is summarised below and compared with corresponding figures for the first three quarters of 1955-56 (in brackets).

			<u>Thousand £.</u>			
			<u>Exports.</u>	<u>Imports.</u>	<u>Excess of Exports.</u>	
			<u>Overseas and Interstate Trade.</u>			
Overseas	..	..	136,677 (107,801)	35,851 (45,158)	100,826 (62,643)	
Interstate	..	..	79,102 (67,217)	133,050 (119,518)	53,948* (52,301)*	
Total	..	..	215,779 (175,018)	168,901 (164,676)	46,878 (10,342)	
			<u>Main Commodity Groups.</u>			
Foodstuffs of animal origin			31,718 (33,229)	2,856 (3,112)	28,862 (30,117)	
Foodstuffs, &c. of vegetable origin	..	..	60,199 (49,413)	13,297 (12,503)	46,902 (36,910)	
Animal & vegetable substances (not foodstuffs)	..	..	75,663 (50,847)	11,364 (8,996)	64,299 (41,851)	
Apparel and textiles	..	..	3,926 (3,398)	25,855 (26,464)	21,929* (23,066)*	
Oils, fats, and waxes	..	..	3,054 (2,769)	12,495 (9,587)	9,441* (6,818)*	
Minerals, metals, and manufactures thereof			31,511 (24,369)	65,881 (67,458)	34,370* (43,089)*	
Other items	..	..	9,708 (10,993)	37,153 (36,556)	27,445* (25,563)*	
All items	..	..	215,779 (175,018)	168,901 (164,676)	46,878 (10,342)	

* Excess of imports.

After two years in which the surplus of exports in Queensland's external trade during the first three quarters was only about £10m., the corresponding balance of exports for 1956-57 rose to nearly £47m. which was higher than the corresponding 1953-54 figure. The improvement was due chiefly to a rise of nearly £29m. in exports overseas and a reduction of over £9m. in imports from overseas. At the same time, the interstate excess of imports of about £54m. was very similar to the interstate balance in the corresponding part of 1955-56, a rise in interstate imports of over £13m. having been nearly matched by an increase in exports to other States.

The principal cause of the increase in overseas exports was greater wool exports which were worth £56½m. compared with £35½m. in the corresponding nine months of 1955-56. Sugar of which £24½m. was sent overseas was up by over £6m., and other items showing substantial increases were metals and metallic concentrates, particularly titanium and zirconium concentrates and blister copper. Meat, butter, and canned fruit exports were less than in the corresponding period of the previous year. The reduction in imports from overseas was spread over all classes except foodstuffs of vegetable origin where there was a substantial increase in imports of tea.

The increase in exports to other States was chiefly in foodstuffs of various kinds, notable among these being meat and butter, less of these having been sent overseas. Sugar exports to other States were also high. The most outstanding amongst the increased imports from other States were petroleum and shale oils, of which interstate sources replaced overseas imports to a large extent.

Information is not available as to the amount of Queensland's imports from overseas which are obtained indirectly through other States and which is included in the collected figures for interstate imports. However, on the reasonable assumption that Queensland obtains the same value of commodities per head of population as the other States do from overseas, Queensland's interstate trade can be sub-divided to show (a) indirect overseas imports and (b) imports of other States' produce. This has been done in the following statement which summarises the trade position during the first nine months of each of the last four financial years.

First Nine Months of Each Financial Year - (Million £).

				<u>1953-54.</u>	<u>1954-55.</u>	<u>1955-56.</u>	<u>1956-57.</u>
Exports to overseas	..	..	..	134.1	115.1	107.8	136.7
" " other States	..	..	..	<u>54.2</u>	<u>58.4</u>	<u>67.2</u>	<u>79.1</u>
Total exports	..			<u>188.3</u>	<u>173.5</u>	<u>175.0</u>	<u>215.8</u>
Imports direct from overseas	..	..		41.5	50.8	45.2	35.8
" from overseas via other States				30.5	39.2	44.8	41.5
" of other States' produce	..			<u>74.5</u>	<u>74.2</u>	<u>74.7</u>	<u>91.6</u>
Total imports	..			<u>146.5</u>	<u>164.2</u>	<u>164.7</u>	<u>168.9</u>
Export surplus	..	..	..	<u>41.8</u>	<u>9.3</u>	<u>10.3</u>	<u>46.9</u>

In 1954-55 exports to overseas decreased in value and imports rose to a high level reducing Queensland's total excess of exports for the nine months to less than £10m., and the corresponding period in 1955-56 recorded a similarly low balance. During 1956-57 the balance has recovered again to nearly £47m. for the nine months, due to improved exports both to overseas and to other States. Imports have remained remarkably stable over the past three years in spite of restricted overseas imports. A drastic reduction in direct overseas imports, from £50.8m. in the nine months to March, 1956, to £35.8m. in the corresponding part of 1956-57, was offset by a rise in imports of other States' produce. Thus, the improved trade position was entirely due to an increase in exports, those to overseas having recovered to their 1953-54 level and those to other States being 46 per cent. higher than they were in the corresponding part of 1953-54.

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BRISBANE.

31st October, 1957.

Table 1.

Value of Exports from Queensland, Three Months Ended March, 1956 and 1957.

Commodity.	Three Months Ended March, 1956.		Three Months Ended March, 1957.	
	To Overseas.	To Other States.	To Overseas.	To Other States.
	£	£	£	£
Beef and veal, fresh or pres. by cold process	2,201,555	223,961	3,657,160	207,979
Other meat, &c. " " " " " "	142,361	75,621	279,016	94,083
Bacon and hams	10,055	187,790	20,139	179,333
Meat, poultry, &c.- preserved in tins, &c.	923,153	156,874	1,204,372	206,697
Butter	2,135,800	38,228	1,573,124	2,029,225
Cheese	114,188	96,022	120,098	184,660
Eggs, in shell or in liquid form	33,527	19,276	147,626	4
Other foodstuffs of animal origin	157,430	69,328	277,479	145,853
<u>Total foodstuffs of animal origin</u>	<u>5,719,069</u>	<u>867,100</u>	<u>7,279,014</u>	<u>3,047,834</u>
Wheat	835,176	1,241	1,135	147
Sorghum	111	2,487	2,379	2,919
Other grains, unprepared or simply prepared	727,280	61,858	398,177	115,785
Flour, wheaten	92,590	90,496	190,340	103,654
Vegetables, fresh	4,121	257,430	2,512	98,580
Fruit, fresh	10,729	395,841	3,039	578,312
Fruit, preserved in liquid or pulped	646,227	539,331	300,411	662,494
Peanuts, including paste	-	358,049	-	305,992
Sugar, raw or refined	4,315,318	2,522,009	7,499,282	5,300,191
Other foodstuffs of veg. origin, beverages	115,025	422,203	85,207	482,539
<u>Total foodstuffs of vegetable origin and beverages</u>	<u>6,746,577</u>	<u>4,650,945</u>	<u>8,482,482</u>	<u>7,650,613</u>
Tobacco, unmanufactured	-	681,347	1,018	174,499
Manufactures of tobacco	5,091	138,198	4,614	161,356
Live animals	37,941	2,443,271	96,065	2,633,768
Hides and skins	219,890	141,750	449,740	144,104
Wool, greasy or scoured	9,963,281	20,443	25,833,738	333,998
Other animal substances, not food	179,730	41,359	297,307	52,963
Vegetable subs. and fibres, incl. raw cotton	597,983	64,763	912,566	143,010
<u>Total animals, animal and vegetable sub- stances, tobacco</u>	<u>11,003,916</u>	<u>3,531,131</u>	<u>27,595,048</u>	<u>3,643,698</u>
Yarns, piece goods, and textiles	22,005	545,878	20,239	710,357
Apparel	21,088	520,303	25,020	554,499
Tallow	76,778	31,993	244,192	25,266
Animal and vegetable oils and fats	39,848	130,913	113,966	82,053
Oils, fats, and waxes, n.e.i.	5,926	228,152	76,274	224,621
Coal	-	50,501	191	90,152
Copper - blister, ingots, scrap, &c.	423	2,130,111	949,819	2,038,534
Lead, in metallic form or matte	310,109	4,124	1,645,871	135
Titanium and zirconium ores, sands, &c. ..	801,866	301	1,998,780	720
Other metals, ores, sands, and concentrates	78,286	334,500	873,283	236,685
Motor vehicles and cycles, cycles, and parts	2,171	571,331	8,970	542,919
Machines and machinery	160,198	597,577	105,113	796,666
Other metal manufactures	82,764	449,172	209,404	726,284
Rubber and rubber manufactures	4,425	765,347	12,565	792,609
Leather and leather manufactures	45,795	172,871	65,768	176,266
Timber, including logs	25,927	83,104	19,750	121,364
Plywood and veneers	10,925	744,369	25,713	755,203
Other items, n.e.i.	280,626	626,177	354,745	804,148
<u>Total other commodities</u>	<u>1,969,160</u>	<u>7,986,724</u>	<u>6,749,703</u>	<u>8,678,481</u>
<u>Total value of all exports</u>	<u>25,438,722</u>	<u>17,035,900</u>	<u>50,106,247</u>	<u>23,020,626</u>

Table 2.

Value of Imports into Queensland, Three Months Ended March, 1956 and 1957.

Commodity.	Three Months Ended March, 1956.		Three Months Ended March, 1957.	
	From Overseas.	From Other States.	From Overseas.	From Other States.
	£	£	£	£
Meat, poultry, &c.- fresh or preserved ..	31	146,201	43	194,924
Milk and cream, including infants' food ..	-	361,792	2,009	406,077
Fish, fresh or preserved	174,642	113,555	132,831	76,013
Other foodstuffs of animal origin ..	14,066	97,186	3,690	125,471
<u>Total foodstuffs of animal origin ..</u>	<u>188,739</u>	<u>718,734</u>	<u>138,573</u>	<u>802,485</u>
Potatoes, fresh	-	413,407	-	231,610
Other fresh vegetables	-	289,927	-	229,788
Fruit, fresh	-	321,180	-	384,372
Fruit, dried or evaporated	-	56,780	257	48,300
Fruit & vegetables, preserved in liquid, &c.	3,288	361,614	1,000	438,949
Tea	338,060	7,674	823,804	1,890
Coffee and cocoa	24,275	201,390	18,421	199,578
Confectionery	435	541,692	512	551,893
Other foodstuffs of vegetable origin ..	62,158	894,532	55,217	1,366,420
Ale, beer, and porter	1,666	336,727	224	217,862
Wine and spirits	25,569	218,352	20,370	189,393
<u>Total foodstuffs, &c., of vegetable origin</u>	<u>455,451</u>	<u>3,643,275</u>	<u>919,805</u>	<u>3,860,055</u>
Tobacco, manufactured or unmanufactured ..	15,775	1,355,056	8,783	1,634,354
Live animals	82	306,109	343	750,178
Wool, greasy or scoured	-	176,514	-	646,348
Other animal & veg. subst., mainly unmanufd.	147,870	239,229	149,460	374,843
<u>Total animals, animal and vegetable substances, tobacco</u>	<u>163,727</u>	<u>2,076,908</u>	<u>158,586</u>	<u>3,405,723</u>
Yarns, threads, cordage, and twines ..	64,380	288,211	92,024	227,966
Bags and sacks	50,519	66,253	127,225	88,656
Piece goods, blankets, and towels ..	951,689	1,605,695	650,712	1,743,660
Linoleum	71,946	72,068	87,324	121,155
Carpets and floor coverings, n.e.i. ..	83,419	116,944	43,969	155,996
Textiles, n.e.i.	39,124	342,953	20,988	491,111
Footwear	14,739	655,573	7,489	704,135
Apparel, n.e.i.	73,461	2,759,992	47,357	3,245,995
<u>Total yarns, fibres, textiles, and apparel</u>	<u>1,349,277</u>	<u>5,907,689</u>	<u>1,077,088</u>	<u>6,778,674</u>
Kerosene	390,273	1,891	323,332	1,327
Lubricating mineral oil	140,358	111,957	342,828	76,672
Petroleum and shale oils	1,817,342	218,578	559,711	2,529,132
Oils, fats, and waxes, n.e.i.	27,580	188,753	31,308	369,156
Pigments, paints, varnishes	56,604	474,712	72,942	472,358
<u>Total oils, paints, &c.</u>	<u>2,432,157</u>	<u>995,891</u>	<u>1,330,121</u>	<u>3,448,645</u>
Rocks and minerals	111,814	105,783	76,535	147,853
Iron and steel, plate and sheet, galv., &c.	1,542	518,101	-	439,820
" " " " " " , other ..	479,802	348,045	456,982	586,789
" " " , pipes and tubes	19,270	654,847	21,390	460,810
" " " , other	665,154	1,224,326	188,108	1,712,094
Non-ferrous metals	14,809	290,869	18,218	327,528
Kitchenware, including heating appliances	36,708	241,737	21,680	317,250
Hardware, including tools	137,908	702,259	124,578	876,639
Other metal manufactures, except machinery	313,697	587,292	263,896	712,002
Railway and tramway vehicles, incl. locos.	25,941	48,236	13,443	71,665
Motor vehicles & cycles, cycles, and parts	1,521,131	3,681,282	1,077,402	4,005,851
Tractors and parts	806,192	996,633	848,415	1,008,218
Electrical apparatus and machinery ..	556,447	1,928,107	338,314	2,076,586
Household machines	26,253	967,795	27,569	1,026,348
Agricultural, &c. machines and implements	161,819	735,489	93,169	1,223,379
Other machinery	1,092,922	1,150,603	1,222,632	1,030,055
<u>Total minerals, metals, metal manuf., &c.</u>	<u>5,971,409</u>	<u>14,181,404</u>	<u>4,792,331</u>	<u>16,022,887</u>

Table 2 (continued).

Value of Imports into Queensland, Three Months Ended March, 1956 and 1957.

Commodity.	Three Months Ended March, 1956.		Three Months Ended March, 1957.	
	From Overseas.	From Other States.	From Overseas.	From Other States.
	£	£	£	£
Rubber tyres and tubes	36,658	728,220	49,736	915,568
Other rubber and rubber manufactures ..	441,232	288,043	302,154	378,246
Timber, including logs	157,781	37,610	96,946	55,680
Furniture, wood and wicker manufactures ..	26,286	83,020	27,557	77,011
Portland cement	754	1,272	615	1,104
Glass and glassware	82,033	140,032	93,880	144,117
Crockery and household ware, n.e.i. ..	130,565	64,263	87,095	58,328
Other earthenware, china, stoneware, &c.	34,670	166,008	28,885	167,516
Paper, paper boards, pulp	461,684	534,689	438,209	569,683
Stationery and paper manufactures, books	162,042	562,662	163,765	599,431
Jewellery, &c., fancy and sporting goods	75,064	430,839	54,348	447,304
Scientific instruments and appliances ..	99,014	238,393	95,327	266,719
Medical & toilet preparations, soap, drugs, &c.	68,891	1,618,366	54,052	1,823,121
Fertilisers	106,471	383,483	49,807	319,347
Other drugs and chemicals	134,588	911,698	162,103	927,860
Other goods	535,000	1,149,688	565,687	1,289,212
<u>Total other commodities</u>	<u>2,552,733</u>	<u>7,338,286</u>	<u>2,270,166</u>	<u>8,040,247</u>
<u>Total value of all imports</u>	<u>13,113,493</u>	<u>34,862,187</u>	<u>10,686,670</u>	<u>42,358,716</u>

Table 3.

Quantities of Certain Commodities Exported and Imported, Queensland,
Three Months Ended March, 1957.

Commodity.	Unit.	Total Exports.	Total Imports.
Beef and veal - fresh, chilled, or frozen ..	cwt.	517,262	n
Meat, poultry, &c.- preserved in tins, &c. ..	cwt.	101,185	9,065
Milk and cream, incl. infants' and invalids' food	cwt.	n	24,783
Fish, fresh or preserved	cwt.	n	11,671
Butter	cwt.	188,356	n
Wheat	bushels	1,680	445,984
Maize	bushels	7,400	n
Millet and panicum	tons	3,813	n
Sorghum	tons	222	n
Flour, wheaten	tons	9,691	n
Potatoes	tons	n	4,760
Pineapples, fresh	bushels	207,816	n
Dates, raisins, sultanas, &c.	lb.	n	88,461
Other dried or evaporated fruits	lb.	48,501	258,804
Pineapples, preserved in liquid	cwt.	89,700	n
Other fruit preserved in liquid	cwt.	33,217	13,853
Peanuts, including peanut paste	lb.	3,856,435	n
Sugar, raw or refined	tons	282,543	n
Tea	lb.	n	3,087,120
Confectionery	lb.	n	3,672,864
Ale, beer, and porter	gallons	n	270,363
Tobacco, unmanufactured	lb.	299,001	14,360
Cattle	number	95,453	7,530
Sheep	number	94,498	126,982
Wool, greasy	lb.	65,089,749	1,506,047
Wool, scoured, &c.	lb.	3,380,088	171,187
Kerosene	gallons	n	5,691,183
Other fuel oils	gallons	n	37,440,516
Timber, including logs	sup. ft.	1,723,223	3,959,197
Plywood	sq. ft.	17,170,859	n
Veneers	sq. ft.	3,149,530	n

n Not recorded separately, but nil or only a small quantity.